

Daily Plan ~ Day 7

Sunday, June 13, 2004

Day Coordinators: Carie Szalay and Clara Ruvolo,
The Academy of Natural Sciences and Palmyra Cove Nature Park



Estuary Portion: Round Trip — Palmyra Cove Nature Park up Rancocas Creek to Mill Creek Park in Willingboro, NJ. 16 miles ~ Tidal Portion, Occasional Boat Traffic, Possible Windy Conditions, Paddling with Current and Tide both ways

- 8:00 A.M. Breakfast/registration/parking of cars at Palmyra Cove Nature Park.
- 8:30 A.M. Safety Talk and launch from Palmyra Cove Nature Park access.
While paddling, there will be naturalist discussions by Academy scientist Ned Gilmore along the Delaware River and Rancocas Creek.
- 11:45 A.M. Arrive at Mill Creek Park in Willingboro, NJ for a talk by Rancocas Watershed Association about their restoration project.
- 12:15 P.M. Lunch
- 1:00 P.M. Naturalist Presentation by Mary Belko, Environmental educator at New Jersey Audubon Society Rancocas Nature Center.
- 1:45 P.M. Launch from Mill Creek Park on the Rancocas.
While paddling, there will be naturalist discussions by Academy scientist Ned Gilmore along the Delaware River and Rancocas Creek.
- 5:00 P.M. Take Out at Palmyra Cove Nature Park.
- 5:30 P.M. Dinner at Palmyra Cove Nature Park in Palmyra, NJ.
- 7:00 P.M. Tidal Wetland Program led by Academy scientists and Palmyra Cove staff and volunteers.

Camping will be at Palmyra Cove Nature Park

Many thanks to today's Sojourn Partners:

The Academy of Natural Sciences
Palmyra Cove Nature Park
New Jersey Audubon Society Rancocas Nature Center
Willingboro Township
Rancocas Creek Conservancy
Rancocas Creek Watershed Association

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Water height is highly relevant in the tidal Delaware section of the river for two reasons:

1. High water can inundate the riverbanks and islands where flooded trees and vegetation can create what are known as "strainers". Strainers are very, very dangerous and can trap boats and people under water.
2. The quantity of water hazards such as large trees, lumber, logs, parts of man made objects such as docks float down the river at a faster rate making it difficult to see and/or navigate around. This floating debris can create a very dangerous situation.

The Sojourn's Policy for the Tidal Delaware River is – At water: 11-feet and above as measured at the Riegelsville Gauge – There will be No Sojourn "River" Trip – Alternate Land Activities will be offered.

(It is especially important to note that high water rescues endanger the people making the rescue. While Sojourn Safety personnel are well trained in rescue techniques, the person nearest to a boat or boater in trouble could be another Sojourner. High water makes the river more dangerous for everyone. The Sojourn will determine whether it is safe to paddle on any given Sojourn Day.)

ALTERNATE LAND ACTIVITY

- Breakfast will be served at 8 a.m.
- Sojourners will be able to explore the Palmyra Cove Nature Park exhibits in the morning.
- Lunch will be served at 12:00 p.m. at Palmyra Cove Nature Park.
- In the afternoon Sojourners will be transported to The Academy of Natural Sciences to explore the museum and our newest exhibit, *Chocolate*.
- In the evening, at 5:30 p.m. Sojourners may rendezvous at Palmyra Cove Nature Park for dinner.
- We can have a sleepover inside at Palmyra Cove Nature Park for a movie and popcorn.

U. S. Aids to Navigation System (ATON)

Buoys and markers are the "traffic signals" that guide operators safely along some waterways. They also identify dangerous or controlled areas and give directions and information. As a recreational vessel operator you will need to know the lateral navigation markers and non-lateral markers of the U. S. Aids to Navigation System.

Lateral Markers

These navigation aids are used to mark the edges of safe water areas; for example, to direct travel within a channel. They use a combination of colors and numbers, which may be applied to buoys or permanently placed markers.



Red colors, red lights, and even numbers indicate the right side of the channel as a boater enters from the open sea or heads upstream.



Green colors, green lights and odd numbers indicate the left side of the channel as a boater proceeds from the open sea or heads upstream.



Red and green colors and/or lights indicate the preferred (primary) channel. If green is on top, the preferred channel is to the right; if red is on top, the preferred channel is to the left.



Lighted Buoys use the lateral marker shapes, colors and numbers discussed above; in addition, they have a matching colored light.



Nuns are cone-shaped buoys marked with red colors and even numbers.



Cans are cylindrical-shaped buoys marked with green colors and odd numbers.



Daymarks are permanently placed signs attached to structures such as posts in the water. Common daymarks are red triangles (equivalent to nuns) and green squares (equivalent to cans) and may also be lighted.